

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 16552 111431Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----079072 111432Z /43

O P 111423Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1759
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

S E C R E T BONN 16552

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT IS SY LE GW
SUBJECT: LEBANON SITUATION: VISIT OF ASSAD

REFS: (A) STATE 227867; (B) BONN 16497

1. WE PRESENTED POINTS CONTAINED REF (A) TO
FOREIGN OFFICE DUTY OFFICER ON SATURDAY MORNING,
SEPTEMBER 9. HE UNDERTOOK TO TRANSMIT THEM TO GENSCHER.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 11, CHARGE CONTACTED FOREIGN OFFICE
COMMISSIONER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS HILLE AND
REITERATED OUR CONCERNS OVER THE LEBANESE SITUATION
AND OUR HOPE THAT GERMANS WOULD DRAW ON TALKING
POINTS (REF A) IN DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSAD. HILLE SAID
OUR VIEWS HAD ALREADY BEEN PASSED TO SCHMIDT AND
GENSCHER AND BOTH WERE SEIZED WITH THEM.

3. WE ALSO FOLLOWED UP WITH FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR OF
MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS BOECKER TODAY. BOECKER CONFIRMED
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THAT US VIEWS HAD BEEN FORWARDED TO BOTH GENSCHER AND
SCHMIDT. NOTING THAT THEY PARALLELED FRG THINKING,
BOECKER OPINED THAT BOTH SCHMIDT AND GENSCHER WOULD DRAW
HEAVILY ON THEM IN THEIR MEETING WITH ASSAD.

4. REFERRING TO OUR LAST DISCUSSION (REF B), BOECKER
ADDED THAT, IN CAUTIONING ASSAD AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO

DISARM THE MARONITES, THE GERMANS WOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CUTTING OF MARONITE SUPPLY ROUTES, THE BLOCKING OF HARBORS THROUGH WHICH MILITIA SUPPLIES ARE CHanneled OR THE TAKING OF STRATEGICALLY IMPORTANT MARONITE POSITIONS WOULD, IN GERMAN EYES, CONSTITUTE ATTEMPTS AT DISARMING THE MILITIA.

5. BOECKER ALSO TOLD US THAT THE FRG EMBASSY IN BEIRUT HAD REPORTED THAT THE MARONITES PROVOKED THE WEEKEND SHOOTING INCIDENTS WITH SYRIAN TROOPS. THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAS INSTRUCTED THE FRG EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV TO MENTION THIS, ON A PURELY INFORMATIONAL BASIS, TO ISRAELI OFFICIALS. THE FRG HOPE IS THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL ASK THE MARONITES TO EXERCISE MORE RESTRAINT IN THE FUTURE.
MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

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